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# *AT THE CROSSROADS*



*IN*

*RACE*

*RELATIONS*

Federal Council on

INTERRACIAL PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Number Twenty-One

*"The assumption of inherent racial superiority by dominant groups around the world is neither supported by science nor justified by ethics. The effort to adjust race relations upon that basis and by the use of force is a denial of Christian principles. To demonstrate that Christian ideals are sufficient to solve the difficult problems of race relations in America is the supreme domestic task before the churches today."*

## AT THE CROSSROADS IN RACE RELATIONS

The Protestant Churches of the United States have moved forward, since the formation of the Department of Race Relations twelve years ago, from considerable confusion about treatment of race problems to a clearer understanding of methods of applying justice and goodwill to them. The major field of action of the churches had been missionary support of education of Negroes and other under-privileged groups. There has been transition of efforts for the advancement of these groups toward equality of opportunity for them in economic, political and social life of the community. Peaceful methods of adjustment through friendly contacts, through educational projects and through experiments in cooperative activity have grown increasingly effective, with a growing conviction of the ultimate power of the Christian religion to solve race problems.

At the same time racial conflicts have become increasingly acute. This has been partly due to friction engendered by feelings dramatized in such movements as the Ku Klux Klan on the one hand and radical organizations on the other. During the last three years of depression, minority racial groups have suffered more than others because of racial discrimination. Radical movements of different kinds have sought to organize these harassed and resentful groups for militant revolutionary mass action against the majority white group. Such movements aimed especially at the Negro masses and their relations with their white neighbors.

The churches, therefore, in the march toward a better day in race relations, have now reached the crossroads where force and violence, mass struggle and revolution, diverge from the methods of peaceful friendly contacts, educational projects for mutual appreciation and cooperative activity for common ends. We stand at the crossroads of adjustment in race relations.

### PART I

*Action on Relations between Whites and Negroes Strategic:* The relations between white and Negro people have continued to receive the major efforts of the Department because of the numbers involved, and because this race problem is the one most closely tied up with American life as a whole. The results in this field are disclosing methods and principles which will be applicable to race problems between other groups in the work of the churches both at home and abroad.

During the past year the work has been stressed along the following lines:

## INTERRACIAL CONFERENCES AND COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

*National Conference Makes Race Problems Discussion Scientific:* The second National Interracial Conference at Washington, D. C., December 16-19, 1928, lifted the discussion of the race problem out of the realm of heated controversy into that of scientific research. The Department of Race Relations called together representatives of other organizations and offered to place in their hands all of its interest, plans and experience developed in the first conference of similar kind at Cincinnati in 1925, and the Department became one of the sixteen participating national agencies.

The purpose and scope of the conference was "to bring together a group of workers in social and religious agencies for conference on Negro race problems in the light of social research; . . . to contribute information and interpretation; and to vitalize their activities through a synthetic view of the facts so that a close relationship may be permanently established in social research in the program of organization in action on this subject." In the light of the view established by this National Conference, other interracial conferences have been promoted.

*State Interracial Conferences Unite Various Agencies:* State interracial conferences and committees have been an outstanding feature. A vigorous development has taken place during the past year in Ohio as a climax of preceding efforts in that state. Following a preliminary conference in January, 1932, a Continuation Committee made plans for a state-wide interracial conference and arranged for the formation of a permanent Ohio Interracial Council. The purpose of this state movement is "to correlate the activities of the several organizations in the state working along interracial lines and to provide a channel for united action; to provide a clearance for the experiences, ideas and methods; and to encourage interracial work in organizations in the various communities throughout the state." The types of organizations that are expected to participate in this council include religious, civic, social, educational, business and labor groups. The continuation committee also held a conference of representatives from the agricultural counties of southwest Ohio to confer about the possibilities of settlement of indigent Negroes from the cities of the state on near-by farm-lands, and started a preliminary study of race relations in the institutions of higher learning in the state. The movement is closely affiliated with the Ohio Council of Churches.

*Local Conferences and Committees Show National Phases of the Movement:* Local conferences have been held in a number of cities like Baltimore, Md.; Washington, D. C.; Chicago, Ill., and Toledo, Ohio. Out

of some of these conferences have come significant analyses of local problems and ways of meeting them. Plans are under way now for a similar conference in Detroit, Mich., Toledo, Ohio, Hartford, Conn., Boston, Mass., and other cities and for state conferences in Iowa, and Indiana.

The number of local interracial committees or commissions developed by the Department has raised the question of a national movement. Some of the locals are quite active. Some are organized under the auspices of local federations or councils of churches; others are not under any organizational auspices but are made up of representatives of a number of organizations, such as federations of churches, the YMCA, the YWCA and local social agencies. The recognized need and feasibility of uniting all in a national cooperative effort is being worked out by the gradual affiliation of these local groups with the Department. The steps as developed indicate that in a normal, experimental way there is growing up a national interracial movement. In all sections of the Nation there are increasing numbers of active groups who are becoming informed and who are thinking and working along constructive lines to combat the evils of interracial maladjustment and to promote constructive programs of better interracial understanding, justice and goodwill.

## JUSTICE IN RACE RELATIONS IN ECONOMIC LIFE

*Through Committee on Economic Life, Counsel and Assistance on Unemployment and Relief Programs Reach Many Local Communities:* The Department's program in this field has demonstrated its quality and soundness during the past three years of the great economic crisis with wide-spread unemployment and emergency relief calling for strenuous service from churches throughout the Nation. Under a standing Committee on Economic Life, Dr. Edward T. Devine, chairman, many local groups in different states have been given counsel, advice and other help in their efforts to see that the underprivileged racial groups, especially Negroes, receive fair consideration in all plans and activities for relief and employment. After the first year the experience of a number of churches in dealing with the problems was studied, the successful methods analyzed, and included in two statements that were sent to the newspapers and mailed to ministers and leaders among church women. To give special attention to the work in this field, the services of the Reverend Irving K. Merchant have been engaged for the first of the coming year. Plans proposed for expansion of program of this work include the promotion of study-discussion groups of white and Negro leaders, especially in churches and religious agencies, as a first step toward better application of ethical ideals to race contacts in economic life.

*The Advice of Agricultural Agents Secured for Rural Ministers:* The Department is now in the third successful year of an experiment in arranging visits of representatives of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture in the southern states to the conferences and conventions of rural Negro ministers. During the first year the plan was tried in two states; the second year in six states, and this year in eight states. These representatives meet the rural ministers in their annual meetings, discuss with them the service which the Government can offer to Negro farmers, and seek to arrange closer contact between local district agents and Negro farmers in local communities. Testimony of both Government officials and church officers indicates that the plan is having far-reaching and beneficial effects.

*Study Made of Southern Cotton-Growing Communities:* These efforts for improving conditions and race relations in the rural South soon disclosed the meager amount of first-hand information available about conditions of rural life in those areas, on which a long time program of the churches could be based. Consequently, after unsuccessful efforts to get other organizations to study the problems, the Federal Council's Department of Research and Education, upon the request of this Department, is making a study of some typical cotton-growing communities in Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi. These surveys were undertaken after conferences with selected white and Negro leaders in those states, who have heartily given their cooperation.

The field work of gathering data in Alabama has been completed by competent local persons connected with the Agricultural Extension Service and with Tuskegee Institute. The data now being tabulated indicate that important facts will be disclosed for further constructive programs looking toward the removal of underlying causes of racial friction. Substantial progress has been made on the surveys in Arkansas and Mississippi. Plans are being made for state-wide conferences in each of the states where the surveys are being made to secure the cooperation of local agencies and individuals in carrying out whatever recommendations may be proposed on the basis of the facts found.

## RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY

*Tenth Observance Witnesses Extensive Interracial Fellowship:* Race Relations Sunday has become a national annual event in the calendars of several denominations and other religious and social groups. Requests continue to increase for literature, assistance on programs, and general cooperation in plans for community activities. The reports received from many places show a wide range of communities which observed the day the past year. In Boston and other New England cities, interracial events over several days included group discussions, exhibits of Negro art, and mass meetings with noted speakers of both races. Communities in New



Jersey experienced for the first time the exchange of speakers of both races and expressed their satisfaction with the experiment. In the West at Dayton, Ohio, Chicago, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., and Denver, Col., special services and mass meetings brought together large numbers of people of several races including Russians and Japanese. In Pasadena, Cal., Chinese, Mexicans, Japanese and Filipinos joined with Negro, white and Jewish groups in a public meeting. In Shreveport, La., white and Negro ministers participated in a joint conference for discussion of race relations. In Fort Valley and Macon, Georgia, Charleston, S. C., Louisville, Ky., Huntington, W. Va., similar fellowship was experienced in interracial gatherings of various types. In Pittsburgh, over a dozen churches paid special attention to the day in addition to the participation of social workers and other groups in the development of plans for interracial work in that city.

*Interracial Goodwill Over the Radio:* The cooperation of sixteen local radio stations as well as question-and-answer periods of Dr. S. Parkes Cadman and Dr. Daniel A. Poling over national hook-ups brought the theme and messages of the day to larger audiences.

*The Meaning of Race Relations Sunday:* Race Relations Sunday has been promoted in order to provide mass contacts under circumstances where the experience of different racial groups will be pleasurable in contrast with painful experiences on other occasions. The churches and other agencies can furnish such occasions for friendly contact in contrast with conflict and friction at other times and places. A joint Advisory Committee representing church denominational boards and agencies assists in preparing the material. The eleventh annual observance is now being promoted for February 12, 1933, which date also happens to be the birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH WOMEN'S COMMITTEE:

In addition to their activity as individuals in the work of the Department, the Church Women's Committee has continued to enlist church women in cooperative activity along special lines.

*Conferences Demonstrate Growing Enthusiasm:* Because of the economic situation, the church woman's general conference, previously held biennially, was omitted in 1932. In its place local and sectional conferences of women were held and interracial programs planned for denominational meetings. This idea was carried through with great success in New York City, where the three church federations of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Westchester County sponsored a one-day conference. A U-Table discussion was an unusual feature when many of the pre-conceived notions about Negroes were given objective consideration.

The church women of New Jersey held their third state conference with three times as many delegates in attendance as at the first one in 1929. The proximity to the New York office has made it possible to give considerable time to developing work in New Jersey, where the proportion of Negro citizens is the largest of any northern state. Members of the New Jersey Church Women's Committee are largely responsible for the interracial program in nine strategic cities in the state.

*Other Interracial Gatherings Feature Talented Negroes:* At one such gathering held at Riverside Church, New York, several hundred women from white and Negro churches listened with great pleasure to Countee Cullen, Negro poet, and to a young Negro singer. At tea following the program the guests had the opportunity of meeting members of the other race in a social way.

*Lack of Hospital Facilities for Negroes Causes Concern:* The tragic death of one of the former Committee members following a motor accident in a district where she was deprived of hospital care on account of color led to the establishment of a sub-committee for study and action on hospital facilities for Negroes. A leaflet entitled "Can This Be True in Your Community?" was prepared and distributed in quantities of from 1,000 to 3,000 to a number of denominations and was also widely circulated to local groups. The secretary and members of the Church Women's Committee share responsibility in many parts of the general Departmental work such as the Interracial News Letter, the study of conference arrangements involving racial groups, Race Relations Sunday and the economic life program.

## THE CRUSADE AGAINST THE LYNCHING EVIL

*Decrease of Evil Shows Lynchless Land Probable:* Progress is shown in the downward trend in the number of victims of lynching between 1922 and 1932. The increasing number of states free of lynchings together with the increase in the number of preventions of lynchings, clearly indicates that it is possible for America to become a lynchless land. The number of victims of the mob was fifty-seven in 1922, eleven in 1928, twenty-one in 1930, thirteen in 1931; and eight during 1932. This Department cannot claim that its work was the principal factor in producing these results, but the activities and influence of the churches in arousing the public conscience have undoubtedly played an important part in this decline.

*Annual Honor Roll Issued for Ten Years Shows Improvement:* The Department's Honor Roll of states free of lynching shows that the number of states on the Roll has fluctuated year by year. From thirty-nine



states free of the evil in 1923, the number rose to forty-three in 1928 then declined to thirty-eight in 1931 and rose to forty in 1932.

*Preventions of Lynchings Exceed Number of Victims:* Aroused by the agitation of the Department and several other organizations, the pressure of public opinion has resulted in an increase in the number of lynchings prevented. In some years there were more preventions than atrocities committed. For example, fifty-seven preventions in contrast with thirteen victims of mobs reported in 1931 were the result of action of officers of the law, indicating their response to the pressure of public opinion. The continuing response of the newspapers to the agitation of the churches has probably been one of the most outstanding effects.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

*Interracial News Letter and Literature on Special Phases of Race Relations Reach a Wide Reading Public:* By various experiments the Department has found certain forms and types of material that will be widely used by the several church groups, but lack of funds to publish such material has been a handicap. In addition to the annual report that has been published each year and widely distributed, the pamphlet giving plans and suggestions for Race Relations Sunday was issued in an edition of 10,000 for the day in 1932. The Church Women's Committee issued a leaflet on discrimination in hospital facilities for Negroes. Eight issues of a four-page Interracial News Service are published annually in cooperation with the Friends General Conference and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The material comes mainly from the Negro newspapers of the country and shows both the problems of race relations and the successes in changing conditions.

*Special Race Relations Numbers of Information Service Discontinued:* Until June of this year, in cooperation with the Department of Research and Education, Race Relations numbers of INFORMATION SERVICE were issued about four times a year. This year it has been decided that this material would get wider attention if distributed in regular issues of INFORMATION SERVICE.

News releases on important events in the interracial field are regularly sent to the daily newspapers, the religious press and the Negro weekly press. Magazine articles are prepared from time to time and published in both the general magazines and church periodicals.

## APPRECIATION OF NEGRO ACHIEVEMENT

*Through Special Awards and Art Exhibits Public Recognition Was Given to Negroes Who Have Achieved:* A five-year agreement with the Harmon Foundation for cooperation in the administration of the Harmon Awards for Distinguished Achievement among Negroes and the promotion of fine arts exhibitions

which grew out of the awards was fulfilled with the presentation of awards on Race Relations Sunday, February, 1931. Awards were not offered by the Foundation this year.

During the years of our promotion sixty-four Negroes were given awards in the eight major fields of literature, music, fine arts, education, business and industry, science and invention, religious service, rural life; one Negro and two white persons were given awards in race relations; 714 candidates were considered for awards; hundreds of names were presented. Scores of letters from Negro recipients of awards and fine arts prizes indicate a nation-wide stimulation of the desire to achieve.

One of the by-products of the Harmon Awards was the discovery of considerable fine arts material of high quality produced by Negroes, and the promotion of art exhibitions to offer it to the general public. Over seventy Negroes were discovered and certified by competent judges as creators of Fine Arts of good or excellent quality; more than 200 Negroes gave offerings of their work. Three exhibitions were held in New York under the administration of the Department and the Harmon Foundation, and two under one of the leading art galleries since the Department relinquished direction of them. Following each of the New York exhibitions, collections were sent on tour. In all, these collections were exhibited in fifty cities in twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia and viewed by over 350,000 people about forty per cent of whom were from Negro groups.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

*Department Seeks Study of Segregation in Religious Organizations:* Following the preliminary survey of segregation in fellowship, membership and other features of church life, made in 1928, the Department has sought, with the cooperation of other agencies, to secure funds for a thorough study of race relations in religious organizations. At the present time the appeal for this purpose is being considered by the Institute of Social and Religious Research. The Institute reports that its study of the Negro Church, which was suggested by this Department, is nearing completion and will be published early in 1933.

*Study of Religious Conference Arrangements Fore-stalls Discrimination:* Many religious and social agencies have had great difficulty in making arrangements for conferences and conventions where non-white persons could attend without racial discrimination. The Federal Council called a conference of representatives of over thirty organizations. They formed a joint committee who, with the cooperation of the Department of Race Relations, worked out a set of principles and a plan of practical procedure to guide agencies facing the problem. This was sent to about seventy organ-

izations. Four national church bodies have already taken positive action based upon this statement and others are seriously considering it. Notably among these bodies is the Methodist Episcopal Church, which at its quadrennial meeting on May 9 in Atlantic City adopted a resolution that it would never meet again in a city where the color line was drawn in hotels, restaurants and other public places. "I believe that if no city under these conditions would be willing to entertain us, it would be better for us not to meet and that our refusal to meet would advance the kingdom of God as much as our meeting under present conditions," declared Dr. Ernest F. Tittle of Evanston, Illinois, chairman of the committee that proposed the resolution.

*Office as a Clearing House Furnishes Advice and Information:* The office of the Department has become a clearing-house for information, advice and counsel through correspondence and the personal contact of its staff to church organizations, religious groups, missionary boards, interracial committees and a host of individuals throughout the nation. After several years of work together, the staff though small but working as a unit, is frequently commended by leaders of the church for services rendered.

*Cooperation with Commission on Interracial Cooperation Effective:* The close cooperation with the Commission on Interracial Cooperation of the South has been sustained through frequent consultation between officers and interlocking members of the two agencies, through correspondence, and through participation in common projects.

## FINANCES

*Financial Support, Already Too Small, Has Diminished:* The financial support of the Department continues to be far too small for the work it is called upon to do. The budget gradually grew until 1931 when the depression caused decline. From six to a dozen of the denominations and denominational boards have made designated contributions, some of them of considerable amount, from year to year. Two philanthropic foundations have continued to give substantial contributions. Less than one-fourth of the budget of the Department is now, or has been, contributed by churches. The time has come for a definite decision on the part of the churches as to whether they seriously propose to support this program for dealing with American race problems.

## THE ADVANCE POLICY AND PROGRAM\*

*Five Experts Survey Ten-Year Activity:* With the cooperation of a special Survey Committee of five experts—three of whom were not connected with the Department or with the Federal Council—a careful

\*Approved by the Quadrennial Meeting, Federal Council of Churches, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 9, 1932.

study was made of the past ten years' activity of the Department in helping the churches, allied agencies and churchmen generally to apply the Christian ethic of justice and the Christian spirit of goodwill to American race problems. This Survey Committee appraised the function, structure and methods of the Department. Their judgment was that

1. The functions along the major lines of activity already undertaken are such as the Department should perform.
2. The structure which has grown up out of the experience of the past years and which in the main has proven its effectiveness by the test of that experience should be continued with such adaptation as further developments prove necessary.
3. The methods are on the whole effective and useful and need only such additions and modifications as further experiment may indicate. The constructive educational methods, especially, were emphasized.

Based upon this survey of ten years' experience, and with a conviction that a grave situation in race relations confronts the churches and religious organizations of America, the following advance policy and program were adopted by the Department and approved by the Federal Council:

- I. RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY is an observance which has a fixed place in the calendars of some of our constituent communions.

We recommend that

Race Relations Sunday be stressed until it is observed by all the communions in our fellowship emphasizing joint participation during the celebration, and looking toward the discovery and promotion of cooperative activities and projects throughout the year.

- II. INTERRACIAL CONFERENCES. The exchange of ideas in conferences between leaders of racial groups has been an effective means of informing and inspiring both the leadership and the rank and file of the churches and allied agencies for larger fellowship, better attitudes and friendly habits of action.

We recommend that the Department

1. Urge the churches and allied groups to utilize their denominational organizations, their periodic meetings, and their conference structure to increase such better exchanges of ideas and to promote wider contacts of minds for better race relations.
3. Extend its promotion of state and local conferences.
2. Continue its efforts to make these conferences more fruitful through preparatory research by competent persons into the problems involved as a basis for programs of constructive action.

4. Increase its field work in order to assist local and state groups in strengthening their organizations and improving their programs.
5. In all such conferences place emphasis upon the common problems which face the racial groups involved.

III. CIVIC JUSTICE IN RACE RELATIONS. Facts and figures show that there has been progress toward a lynchless land in America in which the Department has taken an active part. It is imperative that individual Christians, church organizations and allied agencies should stand for impartial trial by due process of law of all persons accused of crime lest the very processes of the law become permeated with the lawless spirit. Justice demands a guarantee of full equality before the law to every citizen, irrespective of race, color, creed or nationality.

We recommend, therefore, that the Department

1. Find methods of strengthening the belief that the spirit of Christ most of all can extirpate the spirit of the mob.
2. Increase its efforts among the churches and allied agencies to wipe out lynching and mob murder, by
  - a. Widening the publicity of the annual Honor Roll of states free of lynching.
  - b. Effective methods of inquiry into and publication of facts about specific situations where lynchings occur.
  - c. Securing a wider cooperation of the pulpit and the press in spreading respect for law and order.
3. Seek to enlist local and national church organizations and allied groups in moral support of the principle of equality before the law. Custom and tradition often reach down even beneath both common and statute law and bring discrimination and injustice which the agencies of the law cannot reach.
4. Assist the churches and allied agencies in finding methods to penetrate the depths of discrimination and injustice beyond the reach of the agencies of the law and seek to remove both the spirit and operation of the subtle forces of prejudice, which lie beneath the crust of custom.
5. Give increased effort to uncovering the widespread discrimination in the provision of hospital facilities.
6. Continue to help church organizations and allied agencies to discover and apply ethical principles and practical procedures in securing meeting places where their conventions and conferences may be held without discrimination because of race or color.



#### IV. THE PROBLEM OF RACIAL SEGREGATION.

In stimulating churchmen and church and religious groups to apply the ideal of justice and goodwill to race relations, the Department has found that misunderstandings, prejudices, fears and injustices have given rise to widespread forcible separation and segregation of racial groups. These influences produce cleavages which cut through the very structural organization of the church and allied agencies and seriously cripple their spiritual ministry, their fellowship, their worship, and their religious instruction. The spiritual resources of Jesus Christ will be released through the churches and allied organizations only when they grapple with these fundamental issues.

We recommend that the Department

1. Stimulate the church organizations, allied agencies and Christians generally in America to face the facts about the relation of white and Negro denominations and congregations; of white and Negro ministers; about the training and placement of Negro missionaries; and the policies and practices in our church schools and hospitals.
2. Urge the churches to scrutinize their policies and practices in dealing with American Indians, Mexicans and Orientals.
3. Take such steps as are effective in promoting interracial fellowship and cooperation within church organizations and allied agencies.
4. Enlist churchmen both as individuals and as organized groups to deal with the questions of discrimination in housing, schools and health facilities, travel accommodation and other public provisions which have brought increasing hardships to millions of Negro Americans and other racial groups.
5. Seek to guide the churches and allied agencies and their members in a program that will permeate the community with a spirit of fair play, interracial appreciation and respect which will make all such discriminations and injustices impossible.

#### V. ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN RACE RELATIONS

is based upon the ideal that every person should be employed and be rewarded according to his ability to contribute to the common welfare and not upon the basis of his race, creed, or color.

We recommend that the Department

1. Pursue further its plans for helping the churches and allied groups and churchmen generally to deal with economic justice in race relations through
  - a. Interracial discussion groups;
  - b. seeking the cooperation of churchmen in the adjustment of economic interests between conflicting racial groups;



- c. investigation and publication of facts;
  - d. inquiry into the testimony which churchmen and church organizations and allied groups have made or should make with reference to practical problems of race relations in economic life;
  - e. such other educational methods as experience and experiment may show are useful and effective and in keeping with the social ideals of Jesus.
2. Lead Christians, both individually and in the churches and allied agencies, to practice equality of economic opportunity for Negro workers, setting the example within their own organizations; and to extend this service to Indians and to other racial groups.

## VI. PUBLICATION OF THE FACTS AND HERALDING OF THE IDEALS.

We recommend that the Department

1. Stimulate the pulpit and the lecture platforms of the churches and allied agencies to fulfill their special responsibility for spreading information and stressing the principles of friendly cooperation among the racial groups.
2. Intensify its search for and use of methods of helping newspapers, magazines and religious periodicals including those for children and youth to give wider publicity and greater attention to interracial interests.
3. Increase its efforts to help the educational church agencies and allied organizations create literature and courses of study which will fairly and clearly present the facts and reasons in support of justice and goodwill among the races.
4. Stimulate the study of the experience of history, the knowledge of science and the ethical and spiritual values of religion as they apply to race relations in order that children and young people may be taught these things by all available educational methods.
5. Seek constantly to determine the best and most valuable use of the printed page and of friendly face-to-face contact between representatives of racial groups in order to spread the gospel of goodwill as far as the curse of prejudice is found.
6. Continue to stimulate the promotion of projects to increase appreciation of the cultural development of racial groups by local and community agencies.

## CONCLUSION

It is evident that the churches are beginning to realize their responsibility, to speak plainly and to act boldly on race problems. That race problems are a

principal concern of religion and of the churches is increasingly recognized.

A definite trend toward emphasizing the constructive methods of race adjustment for widening the opportunities of self-expression and equality of treatment for individuals of various underprivileged racial groups is clearly discernible. The increase of opportunities for fellowship through the churches between white and Negro peoples, between Mexicans and white groups, and between American Indians and whites shows this tendency in a striking way.

On the other hand, the conflicts of racial groups in the Far East, the inequalities in opportunities for culture, for economic parity and for civic justice between minority racial groups and dominant racial groups in America, in Europe, in Asia and in Africa, challenge the churches with a world condition which only an application of the ethic of justice and the spirit of goodwill can remedy. Radical movements are seizing upon these situations to win the loyalty of oppressed minorities.

The followers of Jesus Christ as individuals and as organized groups as never before should seek to spread the facts about race problems and to apply Christian ideals to these civic, economic and social relationships. Race prejudice offers an opposition that cannot be conquered by force but must be met with facts and with Christian ethics and convictions. We stand at the crossroads in race relations.

## *PART II*

### THE ACTIVITIES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The summaries of activities of local committees, commissions and other groups given below cover less than half of the communities cooperating in this movement. It is hoped that in succeeding years more local groups will keep records and send in reports so that information and inspiration from the whole field may be available.

The Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, has served all communities to which the staff could give assistance freely, whether or not local groups were formally affiliated bodies or were connected with other agencies or were independent. The Department has always aimed to leave local leaders fully free to organize as they thought best, and to serve in such a way that local projects for promoting interracial justice and goodwill would be benefitted. Each group has been counselled to the end that there may be mutual planning, a reduction of overlapping, and more effective action in the whole community.

Full appreciation is hereby expressed to the local federations and councils of churches, mission societies and committees, local YMCA's and YWCA's, civic and social agencies that have cooperated in developing the movement for better race relations.

## AKRON, OHIO:

Thru the effort of local interracial agencies adequate and desirable living conditions have been developed in Kent State College at Kent, Ohio, for Negro students. We attempted to develop here an interracial dormitory program. We still have hopes that eventually this sort of ideal may be achieved.

The chairman of the Commission made 175 addresses, principally to white groups on the subject of "Interracial Problems." Our agency is accepted as the medium of unraveling knotty interracial problems in this section of the state. We are called in by industry, educational and commercial institutions for consultation.

As a result of seven years work on one project we have succeeded in getting the University of Akron and our local Board of Education to place a Negro girl as practice teacher under the supervision of the Department of Physical Education in one of our public schools. The result of this expemiment was highly commendable.

Employers on two occasions have certified to the effectiveness of our work thru the saving of the jobs held by Negro employees.

*Commission on Interracial Relations,  
Akron Council of Churches*

## BALTIMORE, MARYLAND:

Last year an important Interracial Institute was held, the findings of which continue to command real interest on the part of both racial groups. As a result, a permanent Interracial Committee has been organized within the Social Service Commission of the Baltimore Federation of Churches.

We are planning for another institute of a somewhat different sort to be held perhaps as late as the early autumn. The emphasis will probably be on the economic problem.

*Interracial Committee, Social Service Commission,  
Baltimore Federation of Churches*

## BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY:

Meetings are held monthly, alternating mass meetings and committee meetings. There has been large attendance at the mass meetings, addressed by outstanding national speakers of both races. Membership on the Committee, on an annual payment basis, is extended to any who are actively interested.

An effort is made to enable each member to become acquainted with the feelings, thoughts and reactions of the racial and religious groups represented. This "mutual education" has resulted in sympathetic approach to the various problems. Definite progress has been made toward the purposes of the Committee mainly "to affirm the rights of each religious and racial group to hold fast to its distinctive and peculiar tenets of religious faith and to its traditional customs and culture in all ways that do not conflict with the enjoyment

of similar rights by others; and to promote cooperation among these groups for the common welfare of our city and the nation as a whole."

*The Interracial and Interreligious Committee,  
Bayonne, N. J.*

## BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS:

On February 11, we had our annual Good Will Dinner at the Twentieth Century Club with several speakers, mostly students, representing five or six different nationalities and races. On April 29 we had a dinner attended by representatives of the various Negro agencies in the city. A representative of each agency spoke briefly on his particular work. We observed Race Relations Sunday in April, immediately after Easter.

In the spring we began to prepare for an interracial conference, which is coming in April 1933. Committees on the economic situation, and on health and housing conditions and leisure time opportunities have been gathering valuable information in their respective fields. This information will be assimilated and presented in reports, charts, maps, etc., for discussion.

Several local situations where trouble seems to be brewing have been investigated and action taken. We aim to be a clearing house for the various Negro and interracial agencies and committees of Greater Boston. Several of our members have taken part in conferences at the YWCA and spoken in churches and at other meetings.

*The Race Relations Committee,  
Greater Boston Federation of Churches*

## BROOKLYN, NEW YORK:

There are about 100,000 Negroes living in the radius of Brooklyn covered by this Committee. Special programs are worked out which meet the needs of the new-comers as well as the old. Fifty-two white churches participated in the program during the year. Three centers of activity were set up and eight churches held daily vacation Bible schools with mixed groups.

Five thousand colored children attended vacation schools fostered with assistance of the Daily Bible School Committee; 350 teachers received training in our training schools in Fort Green and Central and ten weeks school held in New York City.

Our Chaplain has handled 250 sick people in hospitals, and 52 court cases have been adjusted thru our social service department; 1400 people received attention weekly.

The Committee has been able to bring about better racial feeling and adjustment not by discussing the difference, but by working together for the good of all so that relationships between the groups have been greatly improved.

*The Interracial Committee of the  
Brooklyn Church and Mission Federation*

## BUFFALO, NEW YORK:

In the case of threatened violence in connection with the shooting of a Negro boy by a Jewish woman, the Interracial Committee of the Church Federation used its influence in quelling the excitement in the community until the case was given proper legal trial.

Plans are under way for a community-wide study of the whole problem of unemployment and the discriminations that are made by employers with regard to employment of Negro men and women. This plan will include investigation of public utilities which serve the entire community but do not employ Negro help. Plans are also under way to hold a city-wide conference with emphasis on the cultural life of the various races. This will include exhibitions, etc.

*The Interracial Committee of the  
Church Federation of Buffalo*

## CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

The following statement summarizes the activities of 1932:

1. Survey of race relations activities in Chicago Churches was made and reported in full in the Bulletin of the Chicago Church Federation, September 1931.

2. Cooperation with the Urban League, Adult Education Council and the Interracial Continuation Committee in the program and promotion of the Chicago Interracial Conference at Waukegan last September.

3. Cooperation with the Continuation Committee of the Interracial Conference for the purpose of setting up a permanent Chicago Interracial Commission all-inclusive in scope and nonsectarian in character.

4. Preparation and distribution of a proposed program of adult education in race relations for use in the local church.

5. Arrangements for public reception in recognition of the contribution towards interracial goodwill made by Mr. Richard B. Harrison of "The Green Pastures."

6. Preparations for annual exchange of pulpits on Race Relations Sunday and city-wide observance of Race Relations Sunday by public rally in the New England Congregational Church.

7. Broadcasting the work of the national movement on interracial relations over WIBO as a part of the program of the American Humane Education Society. Contribution of articles on race relations to "The Christian Century," "The Federal Council Bulletin" and "The Congregationalist."

During the year, Dr. Phillip A. Swartz retired as chairman to assume the chairmanship of The Chicago Interracial Council, and Dr. A. Wayman Ward, a leading Negro minister, succeeded him.

The Chicago Interracial Council was organized during the year pursuant to the recommendations of the Waukegan Interracial Conference. The personnel associated in this enterprise comprises representatives from six racial groups, various religious affiliations, and from



different community and civic organizations. The Council is planning an Interracial Conference to be held in the early fall, in connection with the Chicago World's Fair, the Century of Progress.

*The Commission on Interracial Relations of the Chicago Church Federation*

CINCINNATI, OHIO:

We observed Race Relations Sunday with eight exchanges of pulpits. We have endeavored to render some service in the way of comity, by bringing certain churches together. Nothing definite has been accomplished, but several cases are still pending. Economic conditions will probably bring about certain mergers which otherwise would not have taken place. The Negro churches of Cincinnati have been represented on our Executive Committee, on our Committee on Religious Education (Daily Vacation Bible Schools and School for Crippled Children), and our Committees on Racial Cooperation and Juvenile Court. Unfortunately we were compelled to dismiss our part-time worker among colored youth in the Juvenile Court because of reduction of appropriation to us by the Community Chest. An earnest effort to raise the needed amount from the churches to retain him was made but returns have been too small to continue the work.

*The Committee on Racial Cooperation of the Federation of Churches of Cincinnati*

COLUMBUS, OHIO:

Following a visit of Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Secretary of the Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, cooperation was given to the promotion of a state conference, out of which the Ohio Interracial Council was formed for cooperative action of all religious and social agencies. Race Relations Sunday was widely observed with large cooperation of Negro and white leaders. During this celebration Dr. Gilbert S. Cox, formerly of Columbus, was guest speaker before various interracial groups. His visit marked not only a reunion of friends but a rededication of interest in race relations.

The Committee gave its support to the case of Herbert McDowell, including the raising of funds and securing legal services, when he was beaten and arrested on an alleged charge; and the case of Miss Wilhelmina Styles, a Negro student of Ohio State University in the school of Home Economics, which is still in the courts. A request was sent to the manager of the Pythian Theatre asking cooperation in withholding from the theatre shows that would reflect upon the colored community. The Book Evaluation Group has held two meetings, reviewed books on race questions, entertained Mr. Richard B. Harrison, the "Lawd" of "Green Pastures." Friendship Tours have been held in cooperation with the Interracial Council including a group of students at Ohio State University. A Negro nurse has been



appointed on the staff of the Tuberculosis Society. Membership of Negroes on interracial committees and boards continues to increase. Renewed effort is being given to the entire program for better race relations.

*Interracial Committee of the  
Columbus Urban League*

**DAYTON, OHIO:**

The Interracial Council has been reorganized and has elected Mr. F. Gilbert Waiters, Negro Attorney, president of the Senior group and Miss Landis (white) president of the Junior group.

The Council has established the International House which is a downtown rooming and dining place for people of various races and interests.

Neighborhood "Production Units," which are unique, have been started in Dayton. The first one to be established was in the Negro section of the city. There the Community Chest through Dr. Elizabeth Nutting called the unemployed together and organized them so they could make their own living by spinning, quilting, sewing, and raising rabbits along with farming and other interests. They have brought a new day in their neighborhood and have changed the name there from "Tin Town" to "Home View." The "Production Units" plan has spread to unemployed groups, white and Negro, throughout Dayton and received national attention.

*Dayton Interracial Council*

**DENVER, COLORADO:**

The Commission held eight regular meetings during the year with discussions usually growing out of investigations and reports of committees engaged in the study of various interracial situations. Committees on Education, Recreation, Schools, Theatres and Employment made such reports to the Commission.

Interracial Sunday was observed February 14. Dr. William O. Mendenhall, President of Friends University of Wichita, Kansas, spoke to fifteen hundred people at Trinity Methodist, a large downtown church. The audience was composed of about fifty per cent each of both races. In the afternoon more than four hundred young people gathered in the parish house of the church for a fellowship hour followed by an appetizing dinner. An interesting program was rendered with representatives of eight nationalities participating.

During the year the Commission received with regret the resignation of Attorney W. W. Grant, Jr., who had served for seven years. Another attorney, Mr. Morrison Shafroth, son of a former governor of the state, accepted the presidency and has served faithfully. The Commission is composed of about fifty with an average attendance of twenty members. The steering committee, largely staff members of the YMCA and YWCA (white and Negro) formulates the program.

*Denver Interracial Commission*

## DES MOINES, IOWA:

At their annual meeting in January, 1932, the Des Moines Commission unanimously elected its first Negro chairman—Atty. S. Joe Brown, who had served as its vice-chairman from organization October 1924; and as vice-chairman the Rev. Stoddard Lane, white, who is a Phi Beta Kappa from Amherst College. Mr. George M. Webber, general secretary of the Des Moines YMCA and founder of the Commission, was returned to the Secretaryship.

The Commission gave a testimonial dinner in honor of Dr. George W. Carver of Tuskegee, which was attended by about one hundred fifty whites and fifty Negroes. Dr. Carver was presented for his illustrated lecture before three senior high school assemblies, comprising nearly four thousand students, mostly members of the white racial group. On February 11th the Committee in charge of Dr. Carver accompanied him to the Iowa State College at Ames, about forty miles from Des Moines, from which he was graduated thirty-eight years before, and presented him for the first time since his graduation to one group of students and two groups of faculty members.

A survey of all communities in the state of Iowa with 500 or more Negroes is now being made, with a view to having them each send to Des Moines Negro and white representatives for a Regional Interracial Conference to be led by some one or more members of the National Staff at such date as may be agreed upon.

### *Des Moines Interracial Commission*

## DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

The outstanding contribution to interracial understanding and goodwill in the city of Detroit in the year 1932 was the fact that the Council of Churches through its Radio Committee invited ten different Negro ministers to conduct our Morning Devotional Program radiocast over WWJ, the veteran and highest-calibred station in this section.

Previous to 1932 we used Negro ministers and choirs for two or three days each, while white ministers and choirs served for a week each. We found the quality of the preaching and the music so acceptable that during 1932 Negro ministers served the same length of time as white ministers. During the first nine months of 1932 the broadcast was fifteen minutes in duration but during the last quarter of the year it continued for thirty minutes. These broadcasts were favorably received not only by the colored population but by the white people as well, from many of whom we have received words of highest commendation. The Rev. R. L. Bradby, of Second Baptist Church, and his choir gave a week in December, 1932 and received the largest number of letters of appreciation of any minister in a number of weeks.

### *Interracial activities of the Detroit Council of Churches*

## EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY:

The Interracial Committee continues to operate through meetings of a small executive committee about once a month and through the activities of four or five working committees.

Again this year we urged the local churches to observe Interracial Sunday. A few more of the ministers have come to feel that they ought to do something each year on this day. Our young people sponsored a mass meeting of the younger folk and various churches have been having Negro speakers for their young people's groups.

One or two meetings have been held with the school authorities to consider the problems of helping to change public opinion so that the schools might some day introduce practice teaching for Negroes, etc.

Our Employment Committee sponsored a large dinner meeting of people in the community to the end of placing a full-time worker in the field of Negro unemployment.

*Interracial Committee of the Oranges*

## ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY:

This year was spent mainly in studying and acquiring a better understanding of each other. Three meetings during the year gave attention to housing, unemployment and relief conditions in the city as they affected race relations. Reorganization of the Committee is now in process, with a nucleus of white and colored people who are truly interested and tremendously concerned about understanding between the races, and who are mutually working for the good of all.

This group under a new chairman will be augmented by individuals and representatives from organizations that are vitally concerned.

*The Interracial Committee of the  
Elizabeth Council of Social Agencies*

## EVANSTON, ILLINOIS:

The Interracial Council embracing in its leadership Negro and white is not a relief organization; it has membership in the Council of Social Agencies but is not a beneficiary of the Community Chest. Among the accomplishments of this year are further developments of the North Shore Community House for Negro Girls and Women, a day nursery for Negro children and a community hospital. Funds for this work come from volunteer contributions including interested individuals and churches.

The Council has made a study of the historical background of the American Negro and his contribution to American life and culture. In its monthly meetings subjects are treated such as relationship and privileges of the races in the public schools and colleges, in citizenship, in employment and in the use of various social agencies. Requests for unemployment relief have been filled and help has been given on problems of

the underprivileged Negro boys and girls. One student at the Northwestern University has been given aid in the form of a scholarship. The leader of this Council states "during these difficult years for the two races, the opportunity to talk together, at our sessions, of common problems has been a release to the emotional strain which no one has escaped."

### *The Interracial Council of Evanston*

#### GREENSBORO, N. C.

The meetings of the Committee are held quarterly. Call meetings are held when occasion demands. The membership of the Committee is made up of persons representing almost every phase of community life—lawyers, teachers, business men and women, ministers and others of our professional life.

The Governor of our state invited five hundred men and women to attend a meeting held in the assembly room of our state capitol. These persons have been called the Governor's committee or commission on interracial cooperation. The program there outlined was to continue in its operation throughout the state. The state has been divided into districts. The members on this Commission living in our district or county were elected, at our last meeting, to membership in our Committee.

A meeting of this state-wide Commission was held in Raleigh at which time Dr. Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina was elected state chairman succeeding Dr. W. C. Jackson. Plans were made for observance of Race Relations Day on February 12. All of our ministers, white and colored, have been asked to present the matter of interracial goodwill to their congregations in whatever way will best suit their particular situation. Some will preach sermons, some will have interchange of visits and some will have interchange of pulpits. We have a state secretary whose time is equally divided between our state and Virginia, Mr. L. R. Reynolds, who is assisting in the arrangement of program for the Day.

During the past year our local Committee has taken up several matters pertaining to street improvement, health and housing, proper accommodation in our court rooms and public places of amusement.

### *The Greensboro Interracial Committee*

#### HARTFORD, CONN.:

The Race Relations Committee of the Hartford YWCA sponsored a Negro Achievement Week which featured an excellent Art Exhibit, a Book Exhibit, and two cultural programs, with Countee Cullen reading from his own poetry, and the local Negro Dramatic Club presenting an artistic play written by one of its own members. The week culminated in an Interracial Mass Meeting sponsored by the Federation of Churches. Splendid newspaper cooperation was given in this entire program, including two editorials on understanding interracial attitudes.

One unfortunate incident in connection with this week, in which discrimination was made against Mr. Cullen and the colored secretary of the YWCA in a leading hotel restaurant, was the occasion for a protest against such injustices, signed by two hundred representative citizens and sent to all hotel and restaurant keepers in the city.

There is evidence of continued progress in interracial activities. During the summer "Stay-at-Home Camp" program, colored and white girls participated naturally in all activities of the YWCA, even to the extent of swimming together in the pool.

*The Race Relations Committee of the  
Hartford YWCA;*

*The Interracial Committee of the  
Hartford Federation of Churches*

## INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA:

Special mention should be made of the work done by the YWCA committee in promoting interracial contact, knowledge and helpful fellowship. This committee sponsored a half dozen parlor programs the past year, meeting alternately in representative white and colored homes. There are six other meetings held for group discussion, book reviews and other matters pertaining to interracial welfare. This Committee is having marked success in changing race attitudes.

An advance step in effective organization was taken when the interracial committee representing the Council of Social Agencies became advisory and subject to the call of the Council, leaving the real work of interracial investigation and remedy to the regular standing sub-committees of the Council. Each of these committees is interracial in membership. At the present the Committee on Child Welfare is making a much needed and scientific study of the local Colored Orphans' Home with the view of bringing pressure on the entire Council and city to compel improvements at this institution. Recently the lack of facilities for the care of Negroes suffering with tuberculosis was referred to the health committee of the Council.

All organizations working in the interracial field joined in the observance of Interracial Sunday. The observance was unique; first, in that it was held in one of the influential downtown white churches, an interracial choir furnished music for the program; secondly, a straightforward address by a resident whose Christian sense of social justice and his candor in expressing it encouraged both white and Negro citizens; thirdly, by an interracial choir under a white directorship; and fourthly, by exchanges among the young people's organizations of the churches. In a few instances there were exchanges of pulpits.

*Three interracial committees representing:  
The Indianapolis Church Federation; The Council of  
Social Agencies; the YWCA and YMCA and the  
Flanner House.*



## KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN:

Beginning with the Ministerial Association, the spirit of goodwill is apparent across race lines. Two of us here are regular in our attendance at the Association meetings and take active part in the program. A Negro had the honor this year, as is true of some years before, to lead the discussion on good will. At the close of the meeting, some very hearty comments were made upon the method of presentation and approach.

An invitation was extended to the Secretary of the Douglass Community Association to conduct at one of the local churches on Race Relations Sunday. The reaction from this meeting was quite gratifying. The college students' group for which this service was conducted expressed their feeling of appreciation and great benefit derived from the meeting.

There are several affiliations of the Committee through the Douglass Community Association with the Council of Social Agencies, Recreation Council and Old Age Security Committee. Douglass Community Association includes in its membership white and colored people from several organizations, and the executive director of the Association is actively stimulating interracial contacts in this direction.

While the organization sponsors activities in the four phases of life, — physical, social, educational, and spiritual,—the part of our program that reaches across race lines most definitely is the athletic program. Teams were entered in both baseball and basketball leagues. The very finest relationship existed. Our interchanging in musical and literary programs is also a feature of our work. The contacts we make in the schools and colleges are as much to be thought of as our general community contacts which we consider our stronghold and secret of our success.

### *Kalamazoo Interracial Commission*

## LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

As a result of a talk, "The High Cost of Color," given by the executive secretary of the Los Angeles Urban League last February, a unique organization was born—the "Interracial Quest of Understanding." Its object is "to further a deeper understanding of, and a sympathetic friendship among the young people of varied races, in order that human problems akin to all may reach some point of solution." Its membership is restricted to whites and Negroes for the first year. After that other racial groups will be included.

This group has stated that they want really to solve problems between races rather than talk about them. One of their first projects was the organization of an interracial theatre, and they are now hard at work on the limited number of plays written to include both white and Negro characters.

The Rev. Russell E. Clay, former pastor of Florence Avenue ME Church, is the man under whose leadership



this daring to live Christian rather than seem Christian, was born.

### *Interracial Quest of Understanding*

#### MASSILLON, OHIO:

Miss Katherine Gardner, Associate Secretary of the Race Relations Department of the Federal Council of Churches gave an address at the First Christian Church.

Race Relations Sunday was observed for the second year at the First Methodist Church (white). Mr. William Pickens, Field Secretary for the NAACP spoke on "Abraham Lincoln—Man and Statesman." A special musical program included members of both races. Approximately 850 white and colored people attended. This meeting was sponsored by the Interracial Committee of the YWCA representing several denominations of church women.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was also sponsored by this same group of women. This school was conducted five mornings a week, for three weeks. The enrollment was 208 with an average daily attendance of 135. The school consisted of three departments — kindergarten, primary and junior. The girls were taught sewing, reed work, the making of baskets and mats. The older boys were instructed in making bird houses and reed work. Colored men and women were the instructors while the white women had charge of the story-telling. Twenty-five people were active in this endeavor. At the closing of the school the articles made by the children were on display.

More is being done in personal work by interested people than ever before. The attitude of a number of young people regarding race relations is very encouraging, too.

#### *The Interracial Committee of Massillon, Ohio.*

#### MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN:

While we have not had the interracial dinners such as we had last year—because of economic conditions—we have made more contacts thru various organizations and have accomplished some real progress in our program of better understanding thru acquaintance.

The choir leading the singing at the meetings on the Day of Prayer for Missions was composed of white and colored singers. The young people's organizations of the city are becoming more and more interested in right race relations as shown in the fact that the song leader at the Methodist Youth Association meetings in February was a Negro.

We are eager that the local chapter of the NAACP shall become active again, and there are good evidences that this will happen soon. Under the direction of the chairman on race relations in the Federated Church Women's Organization there is being planned an interracial conference among the women of the city. The

Council Committee on acquaintance tours has a good program almost ready to be launched.

We realize that there is much more to do than we have done. As in so many cases, those most interested are most busy with many duties; but we expect to keep everlastingly on the job and hope to accomplish much in the long run.

### *Interracial Committee of Milwaukee*

#### MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA:

The outstanding feature of the program of last year was Interracial Week. There was some interchange of pulpits between Negroes and whites, some interchange of choirs, and two special items as follows: 1) On the first Sunday afternoon, white and colored people from the churches were invited to a program at Wells Memorial Chapel (A white Episcopalian Social Center) at which a program including speeches on Lincoln and Douglass were given by Miss L. O. Smith, a Negro Attorney, and Rev. A. Raymond Grant, Pastor Simpson Methodist Church. 2) On the following Sunday afternoon a program was rendered by colored people in the Phyllis Wheatley House (a Social Center for colored people).

The Church Federation has saved the church property in one instance from being lost to a colored congregation and have helped them straighten out their current finances.

A survey is in progress in regard to the trends of Negro population and the proper placement of churches, with the view to a campaign, when the time shall warrant it, for better equipment and stronger leadership. The Church Federation Secretary keeps in touch with the secretary of the Urban League, Phyllis Wheatley House and the colored social workers in the city.

### *The Interracial Committee of the Minneapolis Church Federation*

#### MONTCLAIR, N. J.

The Committee's activities included a dinner attended by three hundred guests representing the white and colored races evenly. Dr. R. R. Moton was the principal speaker and the group composed of representative citizens greatly enjoyed themselves. An Interracial Vesper Service was held in April. The annual fall meeting took place in October and was addressed by Elmer Carter, Editor of "Opportunity." At this meeting a statement of the function of the Interracial Committee was made to the effect that the activities of the committee should be educational in a broad way leaving the actual leadership in most situations of economic conflict to the members of colored organizations. This position is based upon the belief that to lead begets leadership.

Information on Negro conditions gleaned from a survey of Negro life in New Jersey directed by Ira DeA.

Reid was given to the community at various times including one luncheon attended by social workers and educators and another attended by 18 ministers. For the first time, nearly all Community Chest canvassing in Negro districts was done by Negroes this year.

*Montclair Interracial Committee*

### McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA:

This Committee has functioned the past two years, quietly dealing with matters affecting treatment of Negroes in the public schools and by the police administration. The Committee is ready for any necessary action for justice in race relations.

*Interracial Committee, McKeesport*

### NEWARK, N. J.:

The Interracial Commission of Newark has reorganized and is now meeting in the City Hall every other month. Committees on Education, Health, Delinquency and Crime, etc., have been appointed. We cooperated with the State Committee at a conference March 15; secured contacts for young people to exchange visits to Young People's lectures of colored churches; arranged for teachers to visit Sunday service at a colored church.

*The Interracial Committee of Newark*

### OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA:

Rev. John R. Abernathy of the Oklahoma Council of Churches is chairman of our Commission.

The Negro hospital for the insane, located at Taft, Oklahoma, is now under construction. The acreage of the farm is 160 and the cost of building and equipment is \$200,000. Our Council of Churches cooperated very effectively in getting the necessary appropriation from the Legislature for this hospital.

The United Provident Association for Oklahoma City has a Negro Committee, the chairman of which is our Council's secretary. The Ministers' Alliance of Oklahoma City and environs has a Race Relations Committee. The ministers of the Negro and white races held a joint meeting. Nearly the entire program of another meeting was put on by a Negro Methodist pastor and his family, who gave musical numbers.

*Commission on Race Relations,  
Oklahoma Council of Churches*

### PATERSON, N. J.:

The Committee had the full cooperation of Negro, white and Jewish leaders in several civic matters. Among these matters was a request to the mayor to prevent the showing of the film "The Birth of a Nation," which request was granted. The manager of the Grand View Park was interviewed on a case of racial segregation,

and colored people were permitted to come every day instead of one afternoon a week.

Facts about interracial conditions in the state were presented by the associate director of the survey of Negroes in the State of New Jersey, and the cooperation of the Paterson Committee was secured in promoting this survey. Students in the high school were addressed by a young Negro woman on the field staff of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Negro Achievement Week, held in November, was undoubtedly the most significant event of the year. Opening with a Vesper Service on Sunday afternoon at which Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, spoke to a large audience at the First Baptist Church, the Week proceeded with several special interracial features. A pageant depicting the history of the American Negro was held in the YMCA and YMHA; an exhibit of Negro literature and of Negro art including sculpture, paintings and photographs was on view at the public library. Over 2,000 people of both races were in attendance on these occasions.

### *The Interracial Committee of Paterson*

### PLAINFIELD, N. J.:

The Committee of the Plainfields within the last year was instrumental in bringing before the Plainfield public three Negroes of merit as speakers. A better understanding between leaders of both groups has been effected and the cooperation of the Ministers Council has been secured for an Interracial Service of Worship. The Committee has planned definite follow-up of the Plainfield section of the Survey of Negro life in New Jersey.

### *The Interracial Committee of the Plainfields*

### RICHMOND, INDIANA:

Following an interracial conference by the American Friends Service Committee held in Pennsylvania the West Richmond Friends Church group gave consideration to interracial problems in an evening's discussion.

Interracial Sunday was observed by several Sunday School departments and young people's groups in 1932. Following the presentation of "Green Pastures" in nearby cities one of the Richmond Quaker ministers preached a sermon to which local Negroes were invited. Young people have cooperated frequently all year in the activities of the Townsend Community Center. The annual interracial garden party picnic was held.

### *The interracial activities of Friends of Richmond, Ind.*

### ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS:

The Booker Washington Social Center has a bi-racial advisory committee. Through this agency a great deal of interracial work is accomplished. Negroes are represented on all important community organizations. They

are members and officers in the Cosmopolitan Club, which has thirteen nationalities.

The Center is represented on YWCA Industrial and Girl Reserve Committees and is used as a clearing house by all groups and organizations, particularly county and city relief agencies.

Colored and white high school girls hold joint conferences, games, programs and social affairs, sometimes at their meeting places, sometimes at ours. One member of the bi-racial advisory committee is on the Rockford College faculty, and thru him, although there are no colored students at the college, eleven students are doing volunteer work at our Center.

A bureau of information and an employment bureau are maintained at the Center and used to a large extent by employers after a canvass for opportunities for Negro workers.

*The Bi-Racial Advisory Committee,  
Booker Washington Social Center*

## TOLEDO: OHIO:

Race Relations week was very successful. Mr. William Pickens spoke before various mixed groups — at the Saturday Night Forum, Grace Reformed Church, Frederick Douglas Community Center and Grace Presbyterian Church. In addition, he conferred with the leaders of the Young People's Federation; addressed the ministers' regular monthly meeting and attended an educational conference with school authorities.

Constant work has been done throughout the year by the department on the Gunkel School situation, a school where over 81 per cent of the pupils are colored. This work has consisted of a request for the appointment of a Negro girl to fill a vacancy in the teaching staff, an effort to clean up a very bad vice condition surrounding the school, concern over the appointment of a new principal, an effort to avoid segregation in the forming of the Parent-Teacher Association, and other items of importance.

An investigation was made into the situation affecting the employment and discontinuance of salary of Negro bus boys, bell hops and porters in hotels.

Because of the need of reducing expense, the Board of Education dismissed all attendance officers, among them Mrs. W. F. Kennedy, school visitor in colored homes. The Department of Race Relations of the Toledo Council of Churches was instrumental in creating this position and has sought to have Mrs. Kennedy reinstated, but without success.

A sub-committee on health and housing has visited the City Welfare House for homeless men and has discovered that colored men have much poorer sleeping quarters than the white men. Recommendations for a change were forwarded to the city administration by the Toledo Council of Churches.

*Department of Race Relations,  
Toledo Council of Churches*



## WASHINGTON, D. C.:

1) The most significant feature of the year has been a joint meeting of the various organizations in the District for conference. Our committee took the initiative in sending invitation to eight other groups and a meeting was held last June. On December 3rd the representatives of 14 other organizations engaged in various forms of interracial work met with us to discuss conditions in the District. No attempt was made to form a super-organization. It was felt, however, that the united influence of all would greatly strengthen the effort of each group as it continues to carry on in its own way.

2) A letter was sent to each white pastor of the District of Columbia, stating that the Federal Council of Churches designated Lincoln's birthday February 12, 1933, as Race Relations Sunday, and suggesting that his church in its own way recognize the need for more cordial and practical cooperation between the Negro and white churches. The committee volunteered to assist in arranging for the inter-change of pulpits on that day or in providing speakers for other meetings of the church, or any of its auxiliary societies.

3) A pamphlet setting forth specifically interracial conditions in the District is being prepared by the committee for general distribution.

Other matters have been seriously considered, such as the lack of proper hotel accommodations, race discrimination in the theatres, and general tendencies to segregation.

*Interracial Committee of the  
Washington Federation of Churches*

## WATERBURY, CONN.

Membership of Committee consists of 64 of city's best citizens. Special study of problems of Negro housing, vocational opportunity and Negro delinquency is being made.

Neighborhood House has daily interracial activities in handcraft, basketball, volley ball and bowling, Negroes, Jews, Italians and Irish participating. There are 14 clubs and 21 house teams under a house staff of colored workers.

There is frequent interchange of visits between Neighborhood House Clubs and other city clubs of white organizations to discuss interracial topics.

Neighborhood House Director gave 112 addresses in the city and was appointed as principal and teacher in a City School for weekly religious instruction of mixed class.

*Interracial Committee of Pearl Street  
Neighborhood House*



## WICHITA, KANSAS:

Dr. Glenn H. Bakkum of Wichita University is chairman of our committee. This Committee was in charge of one very interesting Council of Churches regular monthly meeting held at a colored Baptist Church. About 150 attended and everyone thought it the best dinner we had had. On the program were representatives from China, Mexico and Lithuania and the colored people were hosts.

The Negro churches of the city and the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs put on a very interesting pageant, "Heavenbound Travelers," which was largely attended by white people of the city.

The YWCA and YMCA of Wichita both have colored branches in the city and do all they can to promote interracial goodwill. Last year the YWCA sponsored a Health and Baby Clinic in the colored branch. About 2000 women took advantage of the clinic.

*The Interracial Committee,  
Wichita Council of Churches*

## WORCESTER, MASS.:

Lack of funds made it necessary for us to drop our paid secretary in 1931, and with her going our work came to a standstill.

A meeting was called recently for the discussion of future plans of the Council, and it was decided that an international and interracial night would be observed as soon after Lent as possible.

*Interracial Council of Worcester*

## YORK, PA.:

This Commission during the year 1932 has engaged in round table discussions of problems of our local community resultant from proscriptions, discriminations and segregation in moving picture houses. A special committee interviewed the managers of three moving picture houses, moral suasion was used and reaction determined. A restaurant recently opened by a white man from Georgia carried a sign in the window "For White People Only." The proprietor was interviewed by representatives of the Commission and the sign was removed.

Telegrams were sent to Senator David Reed of Pennsylvania urging his support of resolution of Senator Wagner, calling for Federal investigation of peonage in Mississippi flood control project. He assured us he would give Senator Wagner's resolution his best thought.

Unemployment of Negroes was discussed and contact with members of City Council was made to insure an equitable distribution of jobs among white and Negro laborers in any and all of the municipal planning projects. An investigation of alleged discrimination by the Salvation Army was made with unsatisfactory results. The Mayor of our city, who is chairman ex-officio of the Commission, has given a hundred percent cooperation.

*The Interracial Commission of York, Pa.*

## YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO:

1) Financial aid was given for purchase of shoes to four schools where the need of colored groups was very great. 2) Study and discussion were promoted to arouse interest in securing colored teachers in Youngstown schools. 3) Attempt was made to organize federation of clubs among colored people. 4) Study and discussion of "The American Race Problem" by Reuter was carried thru. 5) Study was made of juvenile delinquency in Mahoning County resulting in formation of Committee to work with churches on this matter. Eight meetings of the Committee were held.

*Youngstown Interracial Committee*



## Department of Race Relations

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105 East 22nd Street, New York, N. Y.

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